

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 9-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-6 and 9-13 are amended and claims 7, 8 and 14-17 are canceled. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, in Figures 1-3. Claims 3-6 and 9-13 are amended for clarity and consistency. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 7 and 8 as allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim; and objects to claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 14-17 as allegedly containing subject matter identical to another claim. By this Amendment, claims 7, 8 and 14-17 are canceled to delete duplicative subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by JP 2003-300420 to Shimizu; and rejects claims 3, 6, 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as having been obvious over Shimizu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,289,905 to Braschler. Claims 7, 8 and 14-17 are canceled, thus obviating their rejections. The rejections of the remaining claims are respectfully traversed.

Shimizu is directed to an in-wheel motor of an electric automobile. The motor of Shimizu is provided with an inner stator 40 fixed to a car body side, and an outer rotor 30 pivotably supported by the inner stator 40 and having a permanent magnet. In Shimizu, an iron connection part 32 of the outer rotor 30 is integrally assembled to a body part 21 of the wheel, forming a reinforcement member of the body part 21. Thus, the iron connection part 32 and the body part 21 form a magnetic flux passage of the permanent magnet 31.

The Office Action alleges that Shimizu discloses all of the elements of independent claim 1. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that Shimizu's (1) stator 40, (2) tie-down plate 70, and (3) motor bearing 5 correspond to the claimed (1) cylindrical member, (2) hub, and (3) bearing. However, Figures 1-3 of Shimizu clearly illustrate that the motor bearing 5 is not connected to the tie-down plate 70, and therefore does not connect the tie-down plate 70 to the stator 40.

Further, Shimizu fails to disclose at least "a hub fixed to the wheel in the vicinity of a wheel rim and connected to the cylindrical member via a bearing on the side of the cylindrical member opposite the suspension arm that allows relative rotation between the cylindrical member and the wheel," as recited in amended claim 1. To the contrary, Shimizu teaches the motor bearing 5 including plural bearings, the bearings located on a same side of the stator 40 as the suspension arm (Shimizu paragraph [0015]; Figures 1-3).

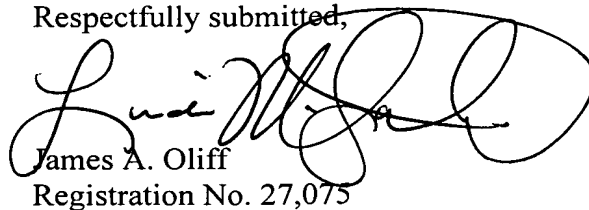
Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Shimizu. Braschler fails to cure the deficiencies of Shimizu with respect to independent claim 1. Thus, claims 3-6 and 9-13 also are patentable over the applied references, either alone or in combination, at least for their dependency from claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: April 15, 2009

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